

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST LOCAL ETHICS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

September 9th, 2025

A special meeting of the Local Ethics Commission was held on September 9th, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. in the First Floor Community Room at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Ignoffo, Commissioner DeGross

Absent: Commissioner Lissuzzo

Also Present: Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Deputy Clerk/Management Analyst Luke Masella, Village Attorney Lance Malina.

Village Administrator Matt Walsh stated that Commissioner Lissuzzo would be absent from the meeting after identifying a potential conflict of interest related to the ethics complaint on the agenda. He informed staff of the issue and chose to recuse himself from any involvement in the proceedings that evening.

Village Attorney Malina provided background information on the Commissioner Lissuzzo's recusal.

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Initial Review of Ethics Complaint – Executive Session

Chairman Ignoffo acknowledged that he is familiar with the respondent listed in the complaint before the Commission that evening but stated that he was capable of reviewing and considering the complaint in an unbiased matter even in light of that relationship.

Commissioner DeGross acknowledged that she is acquainted with the respondent but stated that she believes she can review and consider the complaint in a fair and impartial manner.

Village Attorney Malina stated that the disclosures made by Chairman Ignoffo and Commissioner DeGross were sufficient, and that the Commission could proceed with the matter.

Chairman Ignoffo stated that the complaint was received confidentially and that no identities will be disclosed unless the Commission determines that further action is necessary.

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A MOTION was made by Commissioner DeGroff to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)&(3)&(4), (1)The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. (3) The selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. (4) Evidence or testimony presented in open hearing, or in closed hearing where specifically authorized by law, to a quasi-adjudicative body, as defined in this Act, provided that the body prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative reasoning. Seconded by Chairman Ignoffo.

AYES: Chairman Ignoffo, Commissioner DeGroff

NAYS: None

Motion Passes.

b. Action, if any, based on executive Session

The meeting returned from executive session at 11:01am. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Ignoffo, Commissioner DeGroff

Absent: Commissioner Lissuzzo

Also Present: Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Deputy Clerk/Management Analyst Luke Masella, Village Attorney Lance Malina

Chairman Ignoffo stated that although the Commission identified a potential conflict of interest during its review of the complaint, the matter was addressed by the respondent at the time of the incident. As a result, the Ethics Commission has determined that no further action is necessary.

He further stated that the Commission recommends Village staff distribute the updated Ethics Ordinance to all Covered Individuals and require a signed acknowledgment confirming they have reviewed it. Additionally, the Commission requested that staff prepare a summary memo to accompany the ordinance, highlighting key provisions, particularly those related to conflicts of interest, and reminding recipients to consult with staff or the Village Attorney should any potential conflicts arise in the future.

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Commissioner DeGross noted that Chairman Ignoffo's statements accurately reflected their discussions and recommendations to the Village Board and that she had no additional comments.

Attorney Malina stated Chairman Ignoffo's statement could be considered a motion and Commissioner DeGross's agreement a second. The Commissioners agreed.

AYES: Chairman Ignoffo, Commissioner DeGross

NAYS: None

Motion Passes.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Commissioner DeGross and SECONDED by Chairman Ignoffo to adjourn the September 9th, 2025, meeting of the Local Ethics Commission at 11:07.

AYES: Commissioner DeGross, Chairman Ignoffo

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

Respectfully submitted:



Luke Masella
Deputy Village Clerk/Management Analyst